

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 19 and 27. Please add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:

- 1 1. (original) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;
3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:
5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, and
9 (d) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and
10 the communication network; and
11 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
12 service site comprising:
13 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
14 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
15 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
16 switch, and
17 (h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and
18 the communication network.

- 1 2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

- 1 3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

1 4. (canceled)

1 5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

1 6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2 communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 8. (canceled)

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1 9. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 multi-line hunt group comprises:
3 a plurality of voice communication lines; and
4 at least one signaling line carrying signaling data.

1 10. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein
2 each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and signaling data
3 received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication
4 network.

1 11. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each
2 gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format acceptable by the
3 communication network and passes the converted line signaling protocols to at least
4 one service site.

1 12. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site
3 to exchange signaling data.

1 13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

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1 15. (original) A communication system for transmitting audible
2 messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:
3 a locality of subscriber units;
4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and
8 a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the
9 communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over
10 each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a
11 data format acceptable by the communication network.

1 16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

1 17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

1 18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 19. (canceled)

1 20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site
3 to exchange signaling data.

1 21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication
3 network bandwidth.

1 22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the
3 communication network.

1 23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network comprising:
3 receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;
4 determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines
5 and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received
6 information and associated signaling;
7 formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and
8 signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and
9 sending the formatted information over the communication network.

1 24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:
3 receiving the formatted information over the communication network;

4 reformatting the converted information back into the original format
5 for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at
6 least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and
7 sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

1 25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

1 26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent
3 to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

1 27. (canceled)

1 28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over IP (VoIP).

1 29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1 30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries
3 voice over ATM (VoATM).

1 31. (new) A communication system comprising:
2 an IP-enabled communication network;

3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the
4 remote site comprising:

- 5 (a) a plurality of subscribers,
6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
8 switch, and
9 (d) at least one wide area network access device
10 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
11 communication network; and

12 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the
13 service site comprising:

- 14 (e) a service platform providing voice services;
15 (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
16 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the
17 switch, and
18 (h) at least one wide area network access device
19 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the
20 communication network.

1 32. (new) A communication system for transmitting audible
2 messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

3 a locality of subscriber units;
4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

8 at least one wide area network access device in communication with
9 each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network
10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line

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- 11 and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
12 the communication network.
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